

VPP: Solvay Chemicals Receives STAR Recertification

Solvay Chemicals recognized on July 28, 2005 for their first recertification of their VPP STAR Status for Worker Safety & Health.

Solvay Chemicals plant in Longview received national and state recognition for excellence in workplace safety and health programs by the Department of Labor and Industries - Washington Industrial Safety and Health Act (WISHA) through the Voluntary Protection Program (VPP).

Solvay Chemicals becomes the second Washington worksite to be recertified as a VPP Star.

Solvay Chemicals was the third Washington employer to be recognized for this elite STAR status as a VPP worksite, one of 1345 such sites across the nation. The VPP STAR plaque and flag were presented by Michael Wood, Acting Assistant Director of WISHA, along with other WISHA representatives on July 28, 2005 at a celebration luncheon for plant employees, dignitaries and guests at the Rutherglen Mansion. Ken Merrick, Administrative Manager with Solvay Chemicals Inc. made opening remarks and acted as master of ceremonies; Bob May, Operations Manager, Solvay Chemicals and Mike Nevill, Director of Health, Safety and Environmental for Solvay America along with other corporate officers congratulated the Longview site's management and employees on their achievements and commitment in workplace safety and health. Michael Wood, Acting Assistant Director for WISHA Services presented the recertification plaque and STAR flag for their exemplary participation in the VPP since April, 2000.



VPP plaque presented to Bob May, Solvay Chemicals Longview



Michael Wood, Acting Assistant Director for WISHA addresses the audience.

Solvay Chemicals Receives Another Recognition.

The site was also recognized by Solvay America for achieving its ninth straight award for going without any injury sufficient to keep a worker home or restricted from their work tasks for a day. In addition, the site has achieved over one million man-hours of work without an injury. 28 employees and 12 resident contractors are employed on site, manufacturing hydrogen peroxide in a plant that is considered one of the most sophisticated chemical processing plants in the world. Hydrogen peroxide products are used to treat water, gentle laundry bleaching, denture cleaning, food processing applications and in the pulp and paper manufacturing process.

VPP Qualification Requirements

To qualify for the VPP designation, Solvay Chemicals Longview Plant had to meet a 19 point program promoting worker safety and health excellence and submit a VPP application. Four Washington Department of Labor and Industries (WISHA) safety and health evaluators surveyed the plant for three days, reviewed programs, documents, workplace conditions and interviewed more than 18 employees for the VPP STAR recertification approval.

The VPP Merit status was approved on April 14, 2000 and was conferred for the company's leadership, commitment, excellent safety record and extensive employee participation in a continual safety and health improvement program. Merit goals were established for the worksite to go beyond the standards in this continuous improvement program. Solvay Chemicals received another onsite evaluation in April, 2001 to verify the continuous improvements and was awarded STAR status in the VPP on August 7, 2001. Solvay Chemicals received another onsite evaluation in January 2005 and was recertified as a STAR site on May 7, 2005. Being a VPP STAR site is a very prestigious recognition for excellence in safety and health which is earned by a worksite every day through their commitment and efforts.



Michael Wood and Solvay Chemicals' site representatives who received the VPP STAR Plaque

From left to right: Randy Melerine, Cole Frasier, Janelle Perry and Michael Wood

For more information, contact Ken Merrick, Administration Manager at Solvay Chemicals, Inc., Longview Plant at (360) 636-7786. For more information about WISHA's Voluntary Protection Program, in which WISHA and Washington companies work together to improve safety and health programs, call WISHA, Kenneth Werenko, Safety and Health VPP Specialist, (360) 902-5515.